

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated May 6, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the following remarks. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-7, 9 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Easley in view of Hernandez. Claims 8 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Easley in view of Hernandez and Batni. These rejections are traversed for the following reasons.

This application was filed after November 29, 1999 entitling this application to the benefits of 35 U.S.C. § 103(c). Applicants assert that the subject matter of this application and Easley were, at the time of the invention of the subject matter of this application, owned by the same party or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same party, namely BellSouth Intellectual Property Corporation. Accordingly, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), Easley cannot be applied as prior art against this application.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any charges with respect to this response or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account 06-1130 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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